



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Friday, November 21, 2008 -- 08-063  
**District:** District 2 - Redding  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Tire Chain Season Approaches

**REDDING** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2's maintenance crews gearing up for winter staffing coverage in preparation of the storm season.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Caltrans strongly recommend motorists carry tire chains while traveling in snow prone areas. While the California vehicle code (CVC 27459) does not require motorists to always have chains in their possession, if you do not have chains in your possession and a chain control is in effect, Caltrans or CHP have the authority to prevent you from proceeding.

Many areas of California do not have staffed chain control and use signs to alert motorists of chain control restrictions. These are regulatory signs. If signs indicate chains are required and motorists fail to chain-up, they can be ticketed and fined.

**Lassen County** – This year Caltrans will only staff the Fredonyer chain control on State Route 36, during morning and evening commute hours when storms are forecasted. Motorists in the area are reminded to follow regulatory signs regarding chain control restrictions, whether or not chain control personnel are present.

Winter weather in Northern California is unpredictable and changes rapidly. If conditions warrant traction devices, snow tires or studs may not be enough. There are certain situations where drivers of four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive with snow tires on all four wheels, will not be allowed to proceed without chains in their possession.

The following chart shows required chain control levels:

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAIN CONTROL REQUIREMENT LEVELS

- W: No Restrictions – Watch for snow on pavement.
- R-1M: Chains are required on single drive axle vehicles with trailers. (Commonly referred to as R1 Modified)
- R-1: Chains are required on all commercial vehicles (trucks or buses). All other vehicles (cars, pickups, vans, etc.) must have either snow tread tires or chains on the drive axle.
- R-2: Chains are required on all vehicles except four-wheel drives with snow tread tires on all four wheels, provided tire chains for at least one set of drive wheels are carried in the vehicle.
- R-3: Chains required – ALL VEHICLES – no exceptions.

R-1 and R-2 are the most common chain controls. The highway will often be closed before an R-3 control is imposed.

Stranded vehicles are a hazard to other drivers, cause longer delays and interfere with snow removal efforts. Although four-wheel drives have traction advantages for moving vehicles, they do nothing for stopping them. Tire chains add traction for both accelerating and braking.

For information on road conditions, chain controls and traffic cameras go to [www.caltrans2.info](http://www.caltrans2.info)

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